



APPENDIX A

CLAIMS ON APPEAL

23. A drill barrel having a proximal end and a distal end for excavating a shaft in hard rock or other relatively hard earthen material, comprising:

a barrel portion, said barrel portion being substantially hollow and substantially open at its proximal end; and

a downhole hammer drill disposed substantially within said barrel portion near the barrel portion's periphery.

24. The drill barrel of claim 23, further comprising a releasable hatch in said barrel portion at its distal end for removing cuttings deposited in said barrel portion.

25. The drill barrel of claim 24, wherein said drill barrel has a diameter of at least about 36 inches.

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